[English]

More Funds to Uttar Pradesh for Tourism

931. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received requests from the Government of Uttar Pradesh to allocate more funds for the promotion and development of tourist places;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c). The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Govt officials has identified 8 projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 191 lakhs for central financial assistance during the current year. The projects identified are :

1. Reception Centre at Agra. 2. SEL Show at the Residency, Lucknow. 3. Cruise Boats to be used from Varanasi, Chunnar. 4. Reception Centre at Rishikesh. 5. Aero Sports at Jolly grant. 6. Ski equipment for Auli Ski Centre. 7. Water Sports equipment at Nanak Sagar. 8. River-Rafting equipment.

The Department of Tourism, Government of India releases funds after receipt and examination of detailed proposals from the State Government. Six projects proposals have been received recently from the Uttar Pradesh Government.

Barddhaman to Howrah Railway Line

932. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Barddhaman-Howrah section of Eastern Railway have reached in a saturated position.

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to improve the section for smooth and fast running of trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have considered to provide alternative route from Barddhaman to Howrah.

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the initiatives being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (f). Augmentation of line capacity to meeting demands of traffic is an ongoing process. Presently following works on Barddhaman-Howrah section are in progress :

(i) 3rd line between Gurap-Shaktigarh;

(ii) Howrah-Sheoraphulli and Bhadreshwar-Bandel-Augmentation of sectional capacity and Sheoraphulli-Bandel Automatic signalling.

(iii) Augmentation of Coaching terminal facilities at Howrah;

(iv) Remodelling of suburban platform Nos. 1 to 6 at Howrah.

(v) Remodelling of Yard (Phase I) at Barddhaman.

[Translation]

Setting up Organisation for Employment Abroad

933. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI) :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an organisation like Central Manpower Promotion Council with a view to stream line organisation procedure for employment abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this subject was discussed at the recently concluded conference of Labour Secretaries of States in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). The Government has so far not decided to set up such a Council. Though the meeting of Labour Secretaries of State Governments held on 26.10.1996 has recommended setting up of a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council.

Regularisation of Services of Pharmacists

934. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the services of temporary pharmacists who are working in the divisional hospitals of Western Railway since long have not been regularised so far;

(b) whether collective cash prizes have been given to these pharmacists for their remarkable service and whether they have also passed the special training course during the service period;

(c) if so, the time by which they are likely to be regularised; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). All pharmacists on Western Railway are working on regular basis.